

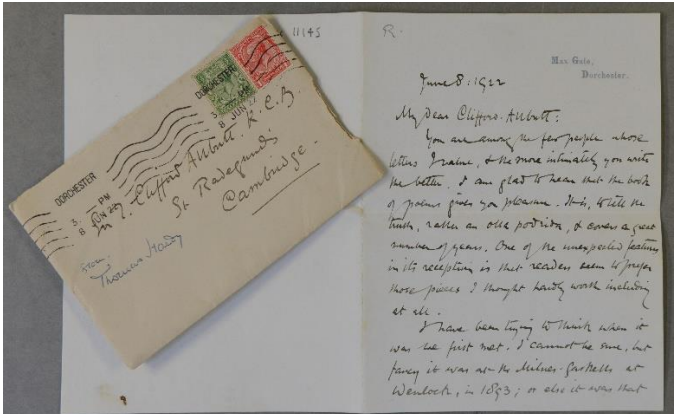
Dorset History Centre and Dorset Archives Trust

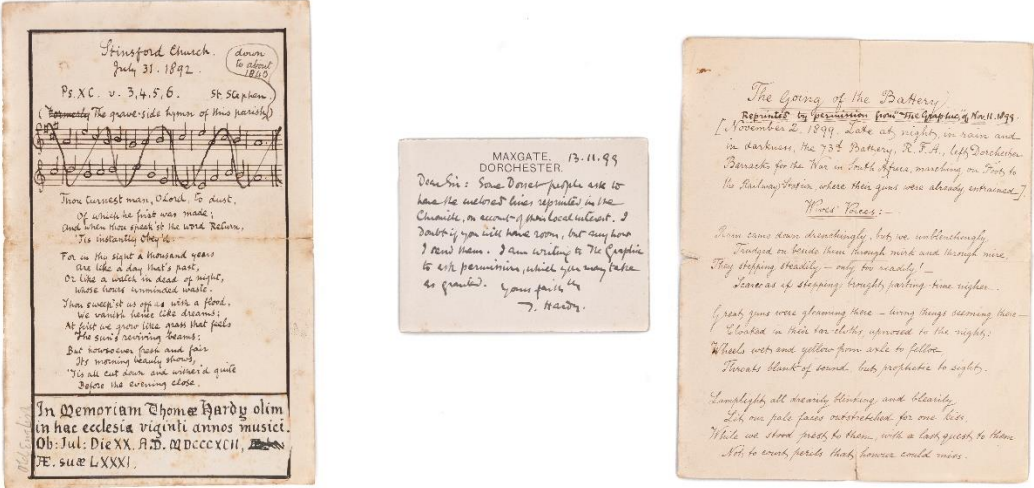
Acquisitions of archives relating to Thomas Hardy since 2020

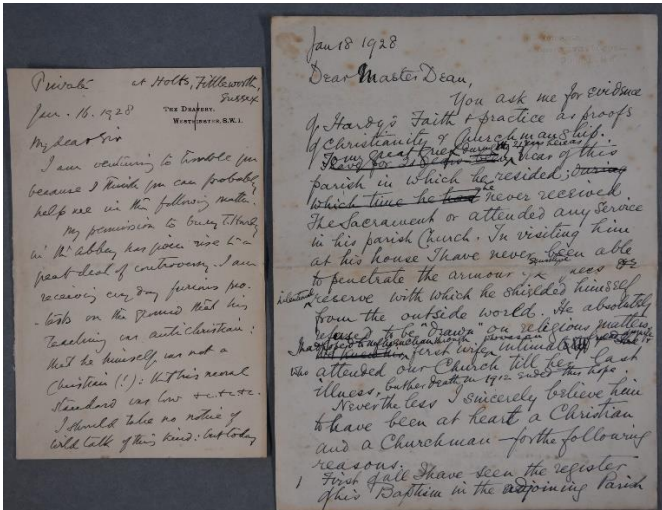
Background

In 2019, management (as opposed to ownership) of the Thomas Hardy archive was transferred from Dorset Museum to Dorset History Centre (DHC). DHC along with its support charity Dorset Archives Trust (DAT) subsequently took on the role of actively acquiring Hardy-related manuscripts and other pertinent material to grow and enrich the existing archive.

Since then, we have had significant success. Thanks to DAT, contributions from the public and generous donations from Friends of the National Libraries and the V&A Memorial Purchase Fund, we have been able to acquire a range of important and interesting items. The value of acquisitions since 2020 totals more than £65,000. Key items are listed below.

Accession number	Description	Date	Source
11145	Letter from Hardy to Clifford Allbutt, 1922; support from DAT and the Thomas Hardy Society 	2019	Private sale

11465	The Stevens-Cox collection; £50,000 purchase supported by FoNL, V&A Purchase Fund, DAT and numerous public donations. Several boxes of manuscript and printed material including correspondence, poetry, personal volumes and ephemera. 	2020	Private sale
11580A	A PREFACE HAND WRITTEN AND SIGNED BY THOMAS HARDY, Discussing the landscapes of village life and the customs of the village bodies, together with a 'How I Built Myself A House' signed by Thomas Hardy (2 docs) A SIGNED LETTER FROM FLORENCE HARDY, Written to Mr Lea, in which she complains about her husband's debilitating heart condition, and how it is causing them to be unable to socialise, and another hand written letter from Florence Hardy (2 docs) THOMAS HARDY: A LETTER FROM THE DEAN OF WESTMINSTER to The Reverend R. Grosvenor Bartelot marked "Private" and dated "1928" relating to the Dean's permission to bury Thomas Hardy at the Abbey and the controversy about Hardy's Christianity; together with the response from The Reverend R. Grosvenor Bartelot dated January 18th 1928, in unfinished form " nevertheless I sincerely believe him to have been at heart a Christian and a churchman" (2 docs)	2021	Auction

	Purchased with support of Dorset Archives Trust. 		
11580B	THOMAS HARDY AN INTERESTING COLLECTION OF GLASS PLATE PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES including a portrait of Hardy, reputedly taken by Rev. Thomas Perkins, the Rector of Turnworth, a portrait of Rev Perkins riding a tricycle, possibly taken by Hardy, a full-length study of Hardy standing beside a door and other similar examples, together with a number of prints taken from the plates Purchased with support of Dorset Archives Trust.	2021	Auction
11817	26 architectural drawings of Athelhampton/Admiston church by Hicks architects, Dorchester. The majority thought to have been produced by Thomas Hardy during his time with the firm, various sizes, several dated 1861, later frames Note: Hardy worked for Hicks between 1856 and 1862 and comments in a letter to Alfred de la Fontaine, owner of Athelhampton at the time, that whilst he did not design the church, he produced 'many of the drawings'. Purchased with support from FoNL, DAT and private donations.	2021	Auction

			
11995	Letter re. Athelhampton Church to Mr A C de Lafontaine at Athelhampton, 1917 Hardy apologises for failing to remember the name of the builder of Athelhampton Church in 1861/2. He declares that it is not Mr. Wellspring “who has just died. He did not succeed to his father’s business till after the date. Whether the builder was his father, or Hammett of Tolpuddle, I am not sure, but I think it was one of them”. He remarks that he should remember, “for though you are wrong in supposing that I designed the church, I made many of the drawings for it under Hicks (with whom I was a pupil) & I helped him to mark out the church & the churchyard....at any rate I was there. I remember the stonemason...Hounsell of Broadway...I incline to the belief it was Hammett; but if I can tell you later on I will do so”. Housed in a later portfolio. Purchased with support from FoNL and DAT.	2023	Auction

				
12137	Thomas Hardy autograph manuscript of poem 'The Departure' and photograph, 1899 Purchased with support from FoNL and DAT. 	2024	Auction	

